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ENG 2009G-001: Literature and Human Values

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ENGLISH 2009G-001: LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES

(Writing Intensive)

Fall 2014

Instructor: John Allison

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Office Hours: MWF: 1-1:55, Th: 10:45-12:00, and by appointment

Catalog Description

(3-0-3) S. A study of some of the universal, recurring issues facing the individual, as they are dealt with in a selection of literary texts from diverse cultures. (1: Labor, Class, Power; 2: Faith, Survival, Progress; 3: Love, Hate, Obsession; 4: Age, Race, Gender). This course is open to all EIU students, but the online version of ENG 2009G is restricted to off-campus students in the Fall and Spring semesters and open to all EIU students in the Summer. WI

Prerequisites & Notes:

"C" or better in ENG 1001G/1091G and ENG 1002G/1092G.

Credits: 3

Objectives of Course:

- **To provide an opportunity to read and discuss major works of American literature reflecting national and universal themes related to labor, class, and power;**
- **To encourage critical thinking about how attitudes and ideas concerning labor, class, and power can enrich or impoverish our material and psychological life;**
- **To promote independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing;**
- **To promote the use of reasoning and evidence to support ideas and interpretations;**
- **To foster competent, well-organized writing.**

Requirements of the Course:

- **Three Essays of Comparative Interpretation (at least 3-4 pages each): 60%**
- **Midterm Examination (two short responses of about 300 words each; one essay of about 600 words) 15%**
- **Pop Quizzes: 10%**
- **Final Examination (two short responses of about 300 words each; one essay of about 600 words): 15%;**

Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examination:

When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, and evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, and word choice), grammar, and mechanics. Of these criteria, content is most important, but an essay can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the criteria. After all, who wants to puzzle through an incoherent message or confront the distractions of an essay riddled with grammatical/mechanical errors?

Revision:

You may revise your first essay for up to 15% additional credit. If you decide to revise your first essay, hand in a revision with the original essay one week after I return the original to you.

Calculation of the Grade: I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade, for each essay, quiz, and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+, an 85% is a B, and an 84% is a B-. The weighted categories (see "Requirements of the Course") and percentage scores allow you to calculate your grade for the course.

Late-Work Policy:

You are expected to hand in your essays on time and in class. You will forfeit five points for each day an essay is late.

Attendance Policy:

If you are enrolled in another class or engaged in any other activity that may cause you to miss a significant number of classes in 2009G, you should not attempt to take 2009G this term. If you have an excused absence, I will arrange time for you to catch up with written work. For an excused absence, you must provide a verifiable excuse from Health Service, a doctor, or a University official. Each unexcused absence will result in a 2% reduction of your course grade.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1. Week of August 25
 - Introduction to Course
 - Franklin, *Autobiography* (27-40)
 - Autobiography* (40-59)
2. Week of September 1
 - Labor Day: No Classes**
 - Autobiography* (59-98)
 - Autobiography* (98-125)
3. Week of September 8
 - Autobiography* (125-60)
 - Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (29-47)
 - Narrative* (48-71)
4. Week of January September 15
 - Narrative* (71-100)
 - Narrative* (100-9); Discussion of Plans for First Essay
 - Melville, "The Town-Ho's Story" (19-38)
5. Week of September 22
 - “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (39-56)
 - “Bartleby, the Scrivener” (56-74); **First Essay Due**
 - “Benito Cereno” (238-68)
6. Week of September 29
 - Benito Cereno” (268-98)
 - “Benito Cereno” (298-315)
 - “The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids” (202-22)
7. Week of October 6
 - Billy Budd, Sailor* (429-64);
 - Billy Budd, Sailor* (464-505);
 - Sister Carrie* (1-75)
8. Week of October 13
 - Midterm: Writing In-class Responses**
 - Sister Carrie* (75-148)
 - Fall Break**
9. Week of October 20
 - Sister Carrie* (148-213); **Out-of-class Midterm Essay Due**
 - Sister Carrie* (213-294)
 - Sister Carrie* (294-369)

10. Week of October 27
 - Cather, *My Antonia* (5-50)
 - My Antonia* (50-108); Discussion of Plans for Second Essay
 - My Antonia* (109-72)
11. Week of November 3
 - My Antonia* (173-98)
 - Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters 1-II)); **Second Essay Due**
 - The Great Gatsby* (III-V)
12. Week of November 10
 - The Great Gatsby* (Chapters VI-VII)
 - The Great Gatsby* (Chapters VIII-IX)
 - Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1-60)
13. Week of November 17
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (61-117)
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (118-62)
 - Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (163-230)

Thanksgiving Recess

14. Week of December 1
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (230-84); Discussion of Plans for Third Essay
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (285-324)
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (325-76)
15. Week of December 8
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (377--429) **Third Essay Due**
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (429-455)
 - Review and Discussion; Preparation for Examination